South Bay Users Group

Contents Copyright SBUG 1986



DYNAMIC MEMORIES

APRIL,1986



PAGE --- CONTENTS

- 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT by Don Rhodes
- 4. OF MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS by Editor
- 5. MODEL 4 CORNER by Editor
- 5. MODEL 4 -- COING DOUBLE SIDED by John Carroll
- 6. WANGERING MAUNDERINGS by Editor
- 8. TRS80 CLUBS ANO PUBLICATIONS courtesy of Don Rhodes
- 11, PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN CLUB LIBRARY by Don Rhodes
- 13, MAIL

LOOK -- PAY ATTENTION ** -- the next SBUG meeting will be held at the Cupertino Library.

Time: 7:15 - 9:30 PM

The next 3 meetings will be held on April 15, May 20, and June 17.

NOTE THIS NOTE

For those of you lacking the proper number of fingers and toes, meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

There will be two speakers at the next meeting. Don Rhodes will demo TOPVIEW & WINDOWS. Joel Lee will demo the use of SUPERLOG, specifically with ALLWRITE.

LOOKIOJOIR EGARDEZI::Owing to the loss of the Dysan anditorium, we are still trying to revitalize the SIGS. Specifically, we wish to have a model 100 group, a CP/M group, and a MSDOS group. Guther your brethren around you and **do your thing to get these going.

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send \$20 (check or money order) to the following address;

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group P.O. Box 60116 Sunnyvale, Ca.94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then include an additional \$25 (a one time fee) for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on the system. Please include your address and phone number.

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	MEMBER	SBUG+80 USERNAME	PHONE
Chairman:			
	Chris Oman	OMAN)	(408) 985 -9460
Treasurer			
	Don Rhodes	(DON)	(408) 996 - 1008
Secretary		, = +	,
	Jim Gonsalves	(MANGR)	(408) 241 -9347
Newsletter I	Editor	,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	Joel Lee	(EDITOR)	(408) 926 - 3999
Librarians:	_		
(disc)	Bernle Thompson	(BERNIE)	(408) 867-7455
(docs	Gary Dixon	(GDIXON)	(408) 262 - 6937
COEDITOR		, ,	(100, 100
•	Gerry McKee	(Gerry)	(408) 752 -3207
SYSOP		(==::,,	(1111)
3.30.	Jim Consalves	(MANGR)	(408) 241-9347

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS

Cover Artist:

YES, Our very own Wright Huntley, Ain't it purty?

Host Computer:

SBUG

(ALL)

(408) 249-8259

If the need arises, feel free to give any one of us a call,

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

It appears that within a couple of years we will all be colored. I mean have color monitors.

When I was in the process of buying my first computer, the 3 finalists on my short list were the ViC 20, the Apple and the Tandy Model III. The ViC was discarded quickly, it looked like a toy and they told me they would have a monitor for it >real soon now<. As unsophisticated as I was in the microcomputer world, that one just didn't go down. Or it didn't fly, depending on your point of view.

The Apple attracted me for a long time because of the color. I have no artistic pretensions, no skill with graphics, had no ideas of anything I could do with the color once I got it. Just think. Would you rather live in a monochrome world than the one you do live in? Color attracts almost everyone. Eventually I bought a Model III because it cost less than the Apple and seemed to offer as much with the exception of color.

There are color monitors now that give sharp lines, not the fuzzy borders we are familiar with. So what, if you're doing word processing of data processing. Even word processing, the application that least lends itself to the use of color, the addition of color could be a great enhancement. One color for the paragraph, another for the sentence, another for centering, etcetera and etcetera. The uses in spreadsheets and data processors are too obvious to expostulate on. They are expensive now, but the prices will come down.

SBUG Financial Statement March 31, 1986

Receipts:	March	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget	
Members dues	78.00	429.00	42,90%	1000.00	
SBUG BBS Dues	0,00	0.00	0.00%	200.00	
Disk Library	24.00	40.00	33.33%	120.00	
Load80	32.00	128.00	64.00%	200.00	
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	40.00	
Interest	0.00	3,54	11.80%	30.00	
Total Receipts	134,00	600.54	37.77%	1590.00	
		Disbursement	13		
Phone	45.50	104.48	43.53%	240.00	
Utilties	0.00	40.00	15,15%	264.00	
Printing	68.16	241.03	66.95%	360,00	
Postage	22.00	72.00	48.00%	150.00	
P O Box	0.00	0.00	0.00%	26.00	
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Disk Library	15.00	15.00	30.00%	50.00	
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	80.00	
SBUG BBS	0.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00	
Total		· 	- -		-
Disbursements	150.66	472.51	34.49%	1370.00	
Begin Cash Balance	664.31	519.62	100.00%	519.62	
Net Receipts	-16.66	128.03	58.20%	220.00	
Ending Balance	647.65	647.65	87.57%	739.62	

FLASH #9888 LATEST NEWS

We are in process of incorporating the club, which will give us certain advantages as a nonprofit organization. Stay tuned to this channel, we will bring you hourly update information.

The bulletin board has a new number. The way it was set up before, Pacific Beil had a real sucker, but now the socker got lucky, and you may happily dial 249-8259. Touchtone calls are accepted also.

OF MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS AND OTHER CURIOUS THINGS

Once upon a time when we were all younger and had many lilusions, every company that brought out a new computer also came out with a DOS. This created a lot of instant experts on the various DOSes, and inamuch as everyone likes being an expert, made a lot of people happy, because there were a lot of DOSes.

Then along came IBM waving the banner of MSDOS, business men love IBM, as even if they didn't know a DOS from a dose, MSDOS became a standard. Almost. The APPLE IIE, longest lived of all computers has its own DOS. COMMODORE in its various manifestations (Vic 20, 64, 128, AMIGA), has had a series of DOSes, MACINTOSH has its own DOS. So does ATARI. TANOY has abandoned any idea of proprietary DOSes and gone completely MSDOS with the exception of the Model 4 which, head bowed, awaits the inevitable fall of the executioner's axe.

Tandy was right of course. The 1000 is outselling any single IBM model. Those who have tried them both agree that the 3000 will blow the wheels off the AT, and the 3000 sells at a much lower price.

What all this proves is that making a better mousetrap doesn't necessarily get you the mousetrap concession. Those familier with TRSDOS 6.2 and MSDOS give up 6.2 only because they have to. There is simply no comparison between the two for ease of use, power and versatility. A British general during the second world war said, "Everybody talks about holding their ground and fighting 'till death but the only ones who do it are the Japanese." The Japanese lost. So much for fondly held popular beliefs. (Courage will conquer all, ability will forge its way to the front.)

More and more attempts (and realizations) are appearing so that DOSes may cross over. This week's INFOWORLO reports that a company called Oata Pacific Inc. has developed a cartridge that will enable the ATARI torun MACINTOSH software. That's a natural because the ATARI 1040 ST and the MACINTOSH are strong graphics machines. An interesting speculation is the eventual destiny of the proprietary DOSes, such as MACINTOSH and ATARI. Ponder on this from an article by Jim Forbes in INFOWORLD. "Apple is also considering Unix support for the Macintosh as well as pursuing its already stated interest in supporting MSDOS on Apple microcomputers." (Emphasis mine)

MACINTOSH continues with strong sales, is attractive to graphics users and to some who find the typical computer confusing and threatening. ATAR1 is posed as a cheap machine that does a lot. The people who buy it, at least start off as people not interested in computers, only in a machine that will do a specific thing or things for them for a minimum price.

Will these proprietary DOS machines endure? If I knew that I'd rush out and buy some stock, (Or sell the stock I don't own so I wouldn't lose money I don't have.)

MODEL 4 CORNER

TANDY has said that Model 4 sales are strong and that it will continue sale of the 4 for at least two more years. Why the good sales, the consumer interest in a Z-80 based machine?

The 4 is well built, sturdy. At 4 MHz the user is not going to lose much time to someone working on a 6 MHz machine. There are good, inexpensive programs for three of the four main areas of computer applications, word processing, spreadsheet, and data base. Graphics is its weakness. If you want graphics, get an ATARI, an AMIGA or a MACINTOSH, depending on your bank balance. TRSDOS 6.2 is an excellent DOS, far superior to MSDOS.

We hobbylsts sometimes forget that a microcomputer is meant to be a tool. The Model 4 is an excellent, inexpensive tool that repays the investment in it many times over. There seems to be an underground propaganda campaign that supports and recommends the 4. Certainly TANDY doesn't advertise it to any extent. I recommended the 4 to my home office. The operator who uses it in the home office wouldn't trade it for an AT. For the type of work she's doing, she wouldn't get any more out of the AT. I think there's a lot of that kind of action going on.

TRSDOS 6.2 is a very flexible and handy DOS. I have just received the 6.2.01 version. To date the only difference I have observed is that 6.2.01 asks when formatting "Sides 1 or 2?", presumably in deference to the 4 D. (See letter reprinted from 80-MICRO.)

One of the niceties of 6.2 is the IEP (for immediate Execution Programs). IEP uses SYS13/SYS to store any given program—PRONTO for example. Once the program is loaded into SYS13/SYS, it stays there and may be put into use at anytime from DOS by pressing >ENTER< *. I am able to keep two memory resident programs—PRONTO and SUPERLOG4, available contemporarily by loading PRONTO with IEP and SUPERLOG4 into MEMBANK 2.

6.2 as you can see, really has a lot of features. Next month 1 intend to take up ICL (Job Control Language) which is extensively implemented and powerful with 6.2.

=== Model 4: Going Double sided ===

=== From Micro80 April, 1986 pp 14 ==

Letter from John Carroll of Sheridan, Wyoming

Some people have had difficulty making their first double sided TRSDOS 6.1 disk. The only trick is to be certain that the SYSO/SYS file is on the front side of the disk, at the beginning of a track; that is it must begin at the left side of one of the clusters of asterisks that illustrate the disk layout when you execute a Free command.

The simplest way to do this is to first format a double sided disk, then back up your single system to it by typing in:

BACKUP :0:1 (0=Y.S.I)

answer 'No' to each query except SYSO/SYS. When you move SYSO in this fashion, the boot track seems to take care of kself. This puts SYSO at the beginning of relative track I, the second one on the screen, Do a Free command to check. To back up everything else, do a back up as follows:

BACKUP:0:1 (NEW, S,I)

You can optimize your disk by constructing it in a way that reduces the amount of head travel required to get to the most frequently accessed overlays and files. For instance, SYSO is accessed once per booting, so it should be located on track 39. The other files are used for each command interpretation; they should be next to the directory track. The simplest way to accomplish this is to fill the disk to the point where you want the file you are moving; then back up the file you want to move. On an empty double sided disk, the command:

CREATE XXXX: 1 (SIZE = 153)

will block out everything down through relative track 17. If you follow the steps above, the first part of the disk will be empty and the system will surround the directory. You can develop your own theory and shuffle files about to your heart's content. If SYSO is at the beginning of a track, it will work. Kill off the dummy file, XXXX, when you're finished.

The patch to force the LDOS/TRSDOS 6.1 Format Utility to ask about the number of sides to be formatted is:

DOA.88=00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

FOA.88=FD E% 3E 65 EF FD CB 0B 6E FD EI

The password is utility. The utility will format double sided disks as provided by including {....SIDES=2....} in the format command line. Radio Shack doesn't acknowledge that double sided drives exist, but Logical System did us a favor when they wrote the operating system.

EDITOR: As I mentioned above, 6.2.01 has moved into the era of double sided drives as it had to do with RADID SHACK selling the 4D.

WANDERING MAUNDERINGS

I can't trace my ancestry back as far as most of the members of this club. I started with a cassette based Model III and 16K of memory. Ah, the woes of trying to load those tapes! Seven or eight times was the standard. The Model IIIs seemed to vary a little bit, mine was especially rehelilous. Until recently I thought it was partly my ineptness, but a line in 80MICRO informed me that I was not the only one.

Then I went to 48K RAM and 2 drives with 360K of storage. What power!!!!!! I never ran out of memory. How could you with 48K of memory? Storage space got a little cramped once or twice but over all I had plenty.

Now I have 128K and 1.2 megabytes of storage space on 4 drives. I would like to have PRONTO, SUPERLOG4 and Memdisk all working at the same time. 128K won't do it. Recently drive 3 went bad. I had to make up a special disk for drive I in order to work as I usually do, but it was cramped and inconvenient. Do you suppose that's what the rich people feel like when they have to sell the Rofis and drive last year's Cadillac?

Of course I immediately went to Bernie Thompson about my bad drive. "Unky Bernie, can you fix my bad dwive?" "Let me see it, no, you'll have to let go of it so I can fix it." A little bit of brains and an even smaller amount of elcohol on a Q tip and the recalcitrant drive began to work properly

TANDY TIDBITS

The latest TANDY flyer announces the 100 at \$399. The final comment on that would have to be; if you need it you can afford it. The same flyer quotes the 1000 with 10 Meg hard disk and monitor at \$1599. I called Marymac, a responsible mail order outfit that sells TANDY products with a local TANDY guarantee, and they gave me the following quote on a 3000:

\$1895, single floppy, 10 Meg Hd, 512K RAM, (Monitor NOT included)

This configuration comes from the factory. They will not configure to your taste. Let us analyse these prices. A monitor can be had for \$100. Add a monitor to the Marymac 3000 and the price is now \$2000. Everyone I have spoken to who has had experience with the 3000 considers it far superior to the IBM AT. Anyone familiar with these facts is certainly going to go for the 3000 and get themselves a great machine for a pairty price.

Addendum; they will configure with a 20 Meg HD, but I didn't get the price.

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Prepared by: Don Rhodes March 6, 1986

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----- SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP -----

02/15/86

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MATH/BAS	MATH PRACTICE AND CALCULATOR
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EEE	FFF	FILER	ENOER	BLAST	
		TANO	Y OUOTES		

STAR FLIGHT

From the Tandy User Group Newsletter

STARPILT/BAS

(Editor's note. It is a sign of changing times that Tandy should attempt to cater to user groups. If only Tandy could inspire their computer store employees to show some courtesy to their customers. At the same time they could pound some knowledge into their heads, because most of them don't know if they're selling ships or shoes or wax or ?maybe computers?)

OUR CLUB MAILING LIST

.....has been pared down to about 120 clubs now. We started with a little over 200 and last monith killed those who didn't respond to our questionaires. There certainly are clubs we don't know about (and would like to), and I'm sure a number of the no-responses simply didn't want to receive this newsletter. But it's also likely some no longer exist, or the club contact has changed, with no forwarding address. At any rate, there are now 120 active clubs receiving this newsletter, in case you're a collector of superfluous trivia.

SOFTWARE UPGRADES

An interesting question came up this past month. As many of you know TRSDOS 6.02.01 was released last October, and our mailing to registered owners was delayed by the mailing service we use. In fact, you got your October dated letter in January! Then when we discovered the delay, another letter went out extending the deadline for getting your copy.

MATE

#22 9 21 Mar 86 07:36:06 (RECV'D)

From: Jim:gonsalves To: Don Rhodes Subj: LEVELS

DON, I HOPE I GET TIME TO GET MY ACCES LEVEL RAISED HIGHER. ALSO, GOING TO HAVE TO CONFIRM NEW BBS ACCESS PEOPLE, SO NEXT TIME THEY CALL THEY DO NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE SAY STUFFOLA AGAIN!

Can un House

#23 10 21 Mar 86 15:31:21 (RECV'D)

From: Don Rhodes To: Jim Gonsaives SEE ALSO #28 Subj: Today's news

III., Jim. I did the OnceDay routine today. This starts a new Sysop, Log file, the old caller history was copied to USER, LOG file.

I uploaded a couple of TRS80 doc files. Catch you later! #24 IO 22 Mar 86 17:40:35 (RECV'D)

From: Don Rhodes To: Jim Gonsalves Subj: Fldo Schedules

I have removed all Fldo Network Schedules: 17:40:00 03/22/86

Sunday morning should find that Fido is ready for a call! I will check with you in the morning.... Don Rhodes

#25 6 23 Mar 86 09:13:50

Front: Don Rhodes

To: All

SubJ: Caller's Log

I have placed a copy of the caller's log in the "GENERAL" files area#1 for you to review, Maybe you would like to see this updated every few days to see who is doing what and when.

Leave your suggestions... Don R.

#26 7 01 Jan 80 01:06:43

From: Don Rhodes

To: All

Subj: SBUG Members List

To the Steering Committee: I have uploaded the latest version of the (3) files; SBUG,DBF, SBUG,PRN & SBUG,DIF. Please update your records,

#2 66 01 Jan 86 16:53:02

From: Sysop

To: All

Subj: In this BBS, each message board is separate.

FDITOR'S NOTE: That's a heck of a lot of mail, isn't it? Come on, a little wright, fite and spight. I'm sure most of you are capable of writing some kind of gibberish. You can't? I don't believe it, I have complete confidence that you are fully qualified to write gibberish, and as a matter of fact frequently do.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group P.O. Box 60116 Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

FIRST CLASS MAIL